

Wednesday, February 24, 2010
Jim Hubbard, 202-225-2671
Sara Howard, 314-962-1523

(WASHINGTON, DC) - After last week releasing a regional economic plan making the case for strategic tax incentives and access to credit for small businesses, Congressman Russ Carnahan (MO-3) released the following statement following the passage of today's jobs bill by the U.S. Senate 70-28.

"While I have serious concerns about some provisions of the Senate jobs bill that passed today, I'm pleased by the bipartisan nature in which it passed. People I represent in Missouri expect us to work together in these tough economic times the same way they do in their own families and communities.

"Based on the dozens of meetings I've had with business and community leaders from throughout the St. Louis area, there is plenty to like about the Senate bill. Small businesses are going to be a major part of our future economic prosperity, and the tax breaks built into the Senate bill will help encourage small businesses to hire additional workers and write off investments. And by helping states improve their aging infrastructure, we can create jobs in the construction sector at the same time that we invest in our long-term economic strength.

"That being said, more must be done. First and foremost, I am deeply concerned that the Senate bill will unfairly exclude Missouri from seeking badly needed transportation funds under specific programs. And we must make sure local transit has the flexibility to use federal funds for their operating budgets, as spelled out in the House Jobs for Main Street bill. A similar provision in the Recovery Act helped Metro restore previously cut routes, getting nearly 250 bus drivers, metrorail operators, and other workers back on the job and ensuring that tens of thousands of other area residents had a way to get to work.

"We cannot solve the country's economic woes overnight but we can take steps to help with our economic recovery.□ We must get beyond petty bickering and pass a Jobs bill that combines the best of the Senate and House legislation as quickly as possible to get Americans back to work and make our nation stronger than ever."

-- Congressman Russ Carnahan (MO-3)

To read a copy of Carnahan's regional economic plan click [here](#) .

###